

Community *Contact*

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

May
2007

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New Co-op... Seymourville



Carmilla Seymour, with her son Bryden, checks the dairy selection at the new co-op store.

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This Issue

Welcome to the May 2007 Community Contact newsletter.

Capital project planning is an ongoing process for ANA communities. In most capital projects, planning needs to be started months and even years before any construction begins. In this issue, we provide an overview of the capital project planning process that every community follows and we introduce the new chairperson for the ANA Capital Approval Board.

This issue also features an article about the establishment of a new co-op store that officially opened this spring to serve the people of the East Side Lake Winnipeg community of Seymourville and surrounding areas. The new Lakeview Consumer Co-op provides a great example for a small community hoping to establish a similar operation.

We've included a selection of photos sent in response to our Take Your Best Shots photo challenge. We consider this a long-term project open to everyone and we'd like to see even more images. Over time, we hope your photos will help northerners develop a better picture of each other and the communities they live in. We hope you're interested in this idea and, to help you get started, we've reprinted the information on how you can participate and what kinds of pictures we'd like to see.

We also profile new additions to our department staff, report on the distribution of two more community constable vehicles and highlight the signing of a letter of understanding between the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and the communities of Cross Lake and Norway House.


Enjoy this issue and the inserted Northern Links recreation newsletter. Please contact us with your comments, pictures, article suggestions or requests for additional copies.



On May 18, 2007, the Lakeview Consumer Co-op Ltd. (LCCL) held a grand opening ceremony, officially opening its doors to people from the community of Seymourville and surrounding areas. Since February, the new co-op store has been providing customers, many of them individuals and families with fixed and limited incomes, practical access to healthy food items and household supplies.

The co-op development began with a vision in December 2002. During a community economic planning session with staff from Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA), community members expressed their desire to establish a local store. The vision began turning into reality in December 2005 under the direction of Brian LaPorte, who currently serves as LCCL president.

Community leadership, commitment and volunteerism are key ingredients for success with all community economic development projects. The Seymourville Community Development Corporation (SCDC) and the Incorporated Community of Seymourville played major roles in the development of the co-op. They helped bring together volunteers of all ages to renovate a building for the co-op.



Store IN SEYMOURVILLE

The Joint Co-operative Development Project (JCDP) also supported establishment of the LCCL. The JCDP is a partnership with Cedar Lake, Winnipeg River Brokenhead, East Interlake and Parkland Community Futures Development Corporations, ANA and MAFRI. The main JCDP role is to pool resources and help all four of its community partners develop retail co-operatives. The JCDP has also secured assistance from the federal Co-operative Development Initiatives program to help provide Lakeview Consumers Co-op with startup support for two years. Since every new project has growing pains, the JCDP is documenting the lessons they learn for use in establishing future co-operative developments.

Providing local residents with a good selection of healthy food choices at fair prices, good service and consistent hours of operation are the main goals of the new co-op. The store carries a full line of products including dairy, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, dry goods, cleaning supplies, confectionery, health and beauty and dollar items. The store's product selection is a direct response to a survey of local residents.

The co-op board worked with the supplier, Triple 4 Advertising, the Regional Health Authority and ANA to design a Healthy Living

Choices display, one of the first things customers see as they walk into the store. Healthy Living Choices is an initiative to address health issues like diabetes among area residents. But since diet alone is not the answer for health concerns, the LCCL board is working with local diabetes outreach staff and the local recreation director to promote prevention and maintenance of diabetes.

LCCL currently has 73 full members. In a community of 40 households, that's plenty of evidence that the concept of a regional store is enthusiastically accepted. Full memberships to the Lakeview Consumer Co-op are available at the store for \$40.



A main goal of establishing the Lakeview Co-op is to provide healthy living choices at fair prices.



Judy Head

Capital Approval Board Chairperson Appointed

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Judy Head as chairperson of the ANA Capital Approval Board.

Judy moved to The Pas/Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) in 1969 and, except for time spent at university, continues to reside in the North. Judy majored in Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan where she earned her honours bachelor of arts in 1987.

She has been employed with Opaskwayak Cree Nation since 1987 as a senior manager responsible for lands, membership, OCN Gaming Commission, TLE, specific claims, bylaws and related legal and administrative issues. From 1999 to 2003, Judy worked on a lands and trusts pilot project with Swampy Cree Tribal Council. She is currently involved with several major projects on behalf of OCN.

Judy is a member of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission and a former member of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development. She has volunteered as a 4H leader for the Equine Project since 1988.

Please join us in welcoming Judy to her new role.

Capital

Capital project planning can be a difficult process for many communities to undertake. This process not only involves community input, but also input and support from project partners, regulatory bodies and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA). Sorting out the information that needs to be included, deciding how to prioritize needed projects and securing funding are some of the many aspects that need consideration. The start of a construction project is not the beginning of the process but the conclusion of a long series of steps involved in pre-construction planning.

Capital Approval Process

As we begin to see changes in the season from winter to spring, we also see the start of the delivery of capital projects in communities. Many of these projects are planned well in advance through the capital approval process. In consultation with ANA, communities prioritize and develop plans to improve their community infrastructure.

The first Monday in May is the deadline for councils to submit their capital project applications to ANA. Once received, these applications are reviewed by the regional offices to verify all the required information is included and the supporting documentation is attached. Councils are then sent a letter to acknowledge complete applications or to recommend how an application can be improved to make it complete.

The capital program is designed to provide and maintain municipal infrastructure in communities. The program allows ANA to fulfill its mandate to improve local services, living conditions and quality of life for community residents. A capital program should meet the needs of a community over a multi-year period.

Project Categories

Projects may fall into any of three categories that must be included in the community's five-year capital plan:

- legislative requirements – regulate standards over water and sewer treatment, waste disposal facilities, building construction and health and safety standards
- maintenance of existing standards of service – vehicle replacement, building upgrades, repairs and road improvements
- new municipal infrastructure that does not currently exist in the community

Applying for Projects

Planning is the first step in every project. Communities identify their needs to ANA in their five-year capital plans.

The planning phase begins with a needs assessment process carried out in November of each year. During this process, legal requirements, maintenance of existing infrastructure and other justified municipal infrastructure and equipment are identified and prioritized. This information is used as input into the five-year capital plans that form part of community management plans due in January. Communities are encouraged to consult with other interested parties such as First Nations, other

Project Planning

provincial departments, neighbouring communities and ANA staff. This will allow communities to co-ordinate projects, obtain outside expertise and funding and, in some cases, share project costs. Community councils should apply for funding for one fiscal year at a time. In 2007, the Capital Approval Board, which meets every two years, will be recommending projects for delivery in 2009/2010.

Capital Approval Process Timeline

October

- community starts reviewing existing five-year plan

November

- community and ANA conduct a needs assessment

January

- community updates five-year capital plan

March

- community requests technical assistance from ANA

May

- first Monday in May is the deadline for submitting completed capital project applications
- ANA regional office pre-screens the applications for information only. Applications may be returned to communities for additional information or clarification

July/August

- communities re-submit capital applications that were returned for more information or clarification

- project applications will be screened in August, in conjunction with the Northern Association of Community Councils, to ensure that all the necessary information is available for the Capital Approval Board

September

- ANA regional offices submit applications to the Capital Approval Board
- Capital Approval Board makes recommendations to the Minister for ANA

November to January

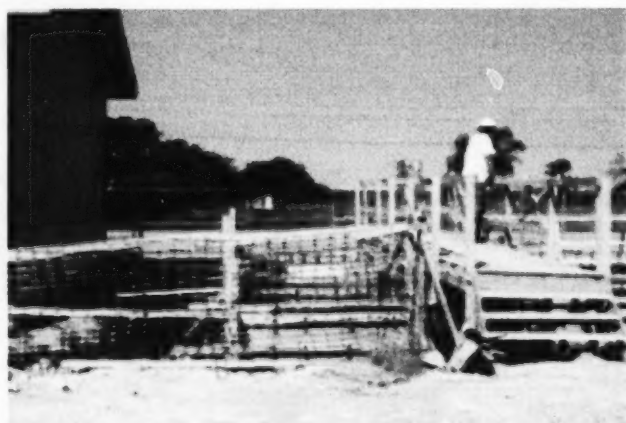
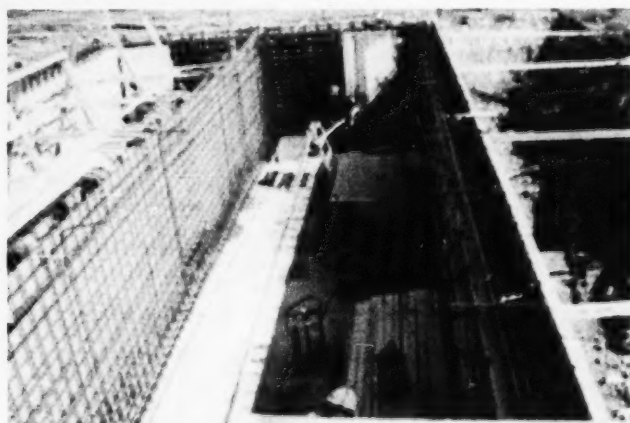
- minister announces capital project recommendations

November to March

- communities and ANA begin initiating delivery plan

Once approved, a project will be delivered by the community, ANA or by both in a joint effort. The capital application process can be difficult if time is not taken to properly prepare the required information. Communities need to prioritize their projects and determine which are critical to the well being of the community. ANA staff are available to help communities stay on track.

Complete information on the capital program and the Capital Approval Board process can be found in the *Capital Project Planning and Delivery Manual* found at www.gov.mb.ca/ana/publications/index.html or available through your regional ANA office.



Capital project construction at Duck Bay on the shore of Lake Winnipegosis provides residents with a modern water treatment plant.

Cross Lake and Norway House Sign Letter of Understanding



ANA Minister Oscar Lathlin signs letters of understanding regarding past hydroelectric development settlements with representatives from Cross Lake and Norway House.

Northern Affairs communities under *The Northern Affairs Act*."

"This important step on the road to self sufficiency marks the ongoing partnership between the province, Manitoba Hydro and the community to assist in the economic, social and political development of Norway House Community Council," said Norway House Mayor Cristo Spiess. "We are committed to ensuring a prosperous future for our residents and will continue to build on the historical significance of this community."

"The signing today is an important step towards addressing the negative impacts suffered by our people as a result of hydroelectric development," said Cross Lake Mayor Clarence Smith. "Although it has been a long wait, I am most pleased to sign the letter of understanding, and we will now be able to move on and address the many social issues that exist in our community."

The next step in this process will include community consultations regarding the proposed agreements in the communities and consultations with the province and neighbouring First Nations. A formal signing ceremony for the final agreements will take place in the fall of 2007.

On April 18, 2007, community council representatives for Cross Lake and Norway House met in Winnipeg to sign a letter of understanding with the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro signifying the conclusion of negotiations for terms of settlements that address the effects of past hydroelectric developments.

"I want to congratulate the two community councils for the hard work they have done

as outlined in these letters of understanding and, although there remains work to be completed, I look forward to the communities receiving these benefits," said Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister Oscar Lathlin. "These letters of understanding also mark an important next step for both communities as they continue to work toward greater levels of self-governance by becoming incorporated as

Two More New Constable Vehicles Delivered

On Friday, March 16, 2007, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs presented two new constable vehicles to the communities of Brochet and Pikwitonei. The vehicles were presented in Thompson and the constables were able to drive them back to their communities on the winter road.

Oscar Lathlin, Minister for Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Gerard Jennissen, MLA for Flin Flon presented the keys to the constables and council members for each community.

To date, nine out of ten constable vehicles have been presented to ANA communities with a constable program. The remaining

vehicle will be presented to the community of Cormorant when their new constable has been trained.



Brochet and Pikwitonei receive new constable vehicles.

Keep the PHOTOS COMING

The March 2007, Community Contact newsletter invited readers to send us pictures showing the culture, history, people, events and sights from their communities. We are pleased to include with this edition, some of the pictures we have received and we thank all those who have sent photos for our consideration.

Besides being seen by residents of other communities, Community Contact is sent to other government departments, non-governmental agencies, various libraries and other jurisdictions. It is also made available on the Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs web page.

Our invitation still stands. We're still interested in your pictures and we've reprinted the guidelines here:

Send us your best photographs. We'll make a selection for use in Community Contact to represent life in remote and northern Manitoba communities. We'd particularly like to see photos from these categories:

- cultural images – people or things with special meaning or representing life in your community
- community landmarks – buildings, recognizable landmarks or scenic views of your community
- community events – special events, ceremonies or community sporting events
- traditional activities – photos that represent the traditional heritages of people in your community
- work related – pictures that illustrate the livelihoods of people in your community and the surrounding area

All people whose photos are used in Community Contact newsletter will receive recognition. Photos can be submitted in electronic form (minimum 500 kilobytes each) or as traditional printed photos (minimum 4" X 5"). If you mail prints, please pack them carefully, we cannot be responsible for their loss or damage in the mail.

When you send in your photos, number them and tell us who or what each photo is about. If you send them electronically, describe them in your e-mail. If you send them as prints, enclose a separate sheet describing the contents of the photos and when they were taken. If you send us pictures of recognizable people, make sure you know who they are and how to contact them for a photo release if we decide to print the photo.

E-mail submissions to:
paul.doolan@gov.mb.ca

Mail photos to:
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs,
Program Planning and Development
Bay 8 – 1680 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0Z2

Please be sure to let us know how we can contact you.

Questions?
Telephone Paul Doolan at 204-945-2161.



Terry Bennett



Farhan Cunniff



Terry Bennett

Left: The ferry is the main route to Matheson Island from spring thaw to winter freeze up. Centre: Residents of Red Deer Lake build a sandbag dike to save a home from spring flooding. Right: Former Matheson Island Mayor Harold Bennett fishes Lake Winnipeg.

Profile

Harold Smith — Northern Region Local Government Development Division

Harold Smith is the new director for the Northern Region. He takes over from Karen Barker who is now the director for the North Central Region.

Born and raised in Thompson, Harold worked with the Local Government Development Division of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs from 1992 to 1994. He moved to the Agreements Management Branch of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat in 1994, where he has worked since. That work involved negotiating and putting land and flood settlement agreements in place with Northern First Nations and communities.

Harold and his wife Pauline have a five-year old daughter and they are active in a number of volunteer organizations in Thompson.



Harold Smith



Kari Halleux

Kari Halleux — Northern Affairs Fund

Kari Halleux works in the Finance and Administration Branch of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in Thompson. Kari recently graduated from the University of Manitoba with certificates in Manitoba Municipal Administration and Human Resource Management; she is currently finishing her second year of the CGA Program. Kari fills the position of property taxation clerk in February, replacing long-time employee Doreen Prenevost.

Originally from the Manitoba's Interlake, Kari spent the past six years living in Gillam. She recently moved to Paint Lake south of Thompson. Kari enjoys fishing and relaxing at the lake in her spare time. She looks forward to her new career with Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

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Community Council members, community residents and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit feedback, comments, questions, suggestions and ideas to the editor.